

U.S. Serial No. 10/707,045

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REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "FINAL" and dated July 25, 2008 have been read and carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have amended the set of claims in the Application as set forth hereinabove. In particular, all claims 1-26 have been amended. Since no claims have been altogether canceled or newly added herein by Applicants, claims 1-26 thus remain pending in the Application for Examiner's consideration.

At the present time, it is Applicants' good faith belief that the pending claims, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious with respect to all prior art of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully aver that the pending claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-16, 18-20, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious, and therefore unpatentable, by United States Patent Number 6,344,745 (hereinafter "Reisker") in view of United States Patent Number 5,194,811 ("Murphy-Boesch"), United States Patent Number 5,202,635 ("Srinivasan"), or United States Patent Number 6,788,058 ("Petropoulos"). Also, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 6, 11, 17, and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious, and therefore unpatentable, by Reisker in view of Murphy-Boesch, Srinivasan, Petropoulos, or United States Patent Number 6,396,271 ("Burl").

In response, Applicants have herein amended claims 1-26 of the Application. (See amended claims 1-26 as set forth hereinabove.) Proper subject matter support for so amending claims 1-26 can be found, for example, in specification paragraphs 0007, 0011, 0023, 0028, 0030, and 0036 and also in drawing Figures 1, 3, and 4 of the Application as originally filed by Applicants.

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As amended herein, Applicants' independent claims 1, 10, 12, 14, and 19 all now generally claim a "drivable imaging coil" that includes a "central ring" which is "structurally adapted for being coupled to a ground reference" during operation of the imaging coil. With the central ring of the imaging coil adapted to be grounded as such, the imaging coil can thereby be driven by its "balun-less drive cables" during operation of the coil. (Applicants' Application, see specification paragraphs 0007, 0011, 0030, and 0036; see center ring 53 and ground reference 110 in Figure 3; and see claims 18 and 20 as originally filed.) In stark contrast, the Reisker reference cited by Examiner does not even teach such a "central ring" in its imaging coil. (Reisker, see Figures 1A and 6.) Also, both the Reisker reference and the Petropoulos reference specifically teach away from including balun-less drive cables in their respective imaging coils and instead teach the use of baluns or balun-based cables for driving an imaging coil. (Reisker, see discussion of "drive points" being at "virtual ground" in column 7, lines 29-41; and see also "baluns" included in drive cables as depicted in Figure 1A.) (Petropoulos, see discussion of "baluns" in column 3, lines 7-26; and see also "baluns" used for driving an imaging coil in Figure 5.) Furthermore, none of the other references cited by Examiner teach or suggest Applicants' presently claimed "drivable imaging coil," which includes "balun-less drive cables" along with a "central ring" that is "structurally adapted for being coupled to a ground reference" during operation of the imaging coil.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the claims as amended and also the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-26 are all novel and non-obvious with respect to the prior art of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that all of Examiner's claim rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn and that a "Notice of Allowance" be issued for all claims 1-26.

Also, together with this Amendment, both a "Petition for an Extension of Time" (3 months) and a "Request for Continued Examination" (RCE) along with appropriate fees are being submitted. Receipt and entry thereof by Examiner is respectfully requested by Applicants.

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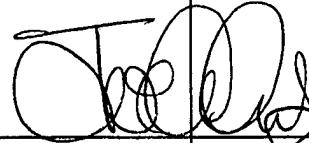
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Should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record,
Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 433-7200.

Respectfully submitted,

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